Business Plan

2017–2018

Department of Business

NOVA SCOTIA

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Budget 2017–2018: Business Plans

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Message from the Minister

As the Department of Business enters the 2017-18 fiscal year, it is important to reflect on and evaluate our progress over the past year so we can continue to work towards our vision of making Nova Scotia the most business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.

We've made good progress in our role of aligning and coordinating all of government behind a common economic development agenda, and working with our partners to create the conditions for private sector growth.

In this, the department's third year, we will continue to focus on fostering and enhancing innovation, competitiveness, entrepreneurship and exports, and promoting the development of priority sectors with high growth potential.

We will work with our partners across government and the five Crown corporations for which I am responsible to clear the way for the private sector to thrive and succeed, and to build a better economic future for our province. Our work will be guided by our frameworks for private sector growth and advancing social enterprises.

We look forward to working with our partners in other levels of government, the private and social enterprise sectors, universities and colleges, and more towards our shared goal of building a better economic future for Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

Mark Furey
Minister of Business
Province of Nova Scotia

Mandate

As government's central lead on economic development policy, the Department of Business (Business) guides and aligns all government efforts behind a common economic development agenda focused on enabling private sector growth in Nova Scotia. Business focuses on strategic issues and opportunities that enhance Nova Scotia's innovation, competitiveness, entrepreneurship, and export orientation.

Activities to Achieve Mandate

Business is guided by Government's frameworks for Private Sector Growth and Advancing Social Enterprise. Each framework positions government's role to be strategic, with actions rooted in evidence and impact. These frameworks set the stage to foster conditions that will benefit Nova Scotia for years to come, whether it be ways for youth to join the provincial workforce or become entrepreneurs in our rural communities. The role of Business is to ensure government's efforts to advance its economic agenda are both focused and coordinated, which is achieved by working closely with the five Crown corporations for which it is responsible (Innovacorp, Nova Scotia Business Inc., Tourism Nova Scotia, Trade Centre Limited, the Waterfront Development Corporation Ltd.) and the departments that deliver economic programs and services.

Innovation is critical to the growth of the Nova Scotia economy, creating opportunities for jobs and entrepreneurship. As government's lead on economic development policy, Business will play a key role to advance government's focus on innovation. While Business is the champion of government's innovation agenda, most of the specific initiatives are led by its Crown corporations and other departments. Therefore, the department will lead a coordinated, incremental approach to advance government's innovation agenda by working closely with its five Crown corporations and the departments that deliver economic programs and services. For example, Business will work closely with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education, as well as Innovacorp and Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI), to advance the development of an innovation ecosystem across Nova Scotia.

Business plays a key role in supporting economic growth and international competitiveness by providing strategic policy oversight, accountability and facilitating connections among the public and private sectors and levels of government. An example of this includes the Province working closely with the federal government and the other Atlantic provinces to advance the Atlantic Growth Strategy, which is intended to drive economic growth in the region by implementing targeted, evidence-based actions.

A formal expression of how Business aligns government's activities around advancing private sector growth is through the outcome agreements with all Crown corporations under its mandate and alignment work with twelve departments/offices. Business will continue to work with these government partners to advance government's economic agenda, including work to develop and oversee an approach to monitoring and evaluating progress.

Business supports the Minister of Business who has responsibility for the oversight for five private sector board-led Crown corporations: Innovacorp, NSBI, Tourism Nova Scotia, Trade Centre Limited, and the Waterfront Development Corporation Ltd. As such Business conveys policy directions and facilitates government decision making on Crown corporation requests. As well, Business supports Invest Nova Scotia in its investments in strategic projects that foster economic growth across sectors, innovation systems or regions of the Province.

In addition to the roles already identified, Business also provides strategic and project-based leadership. Examples include:

- Collaboration with the private sector, including social enterprises, academia and other government partners, to promote sector and high potential cluster development. This includes realizing the potential of our natural assets, which is the focus of the Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE);
- Building upon the 2016-2017 rural high speed internet work, develop an action plan to enable the implementation of the rural high speed internet strategy for the province in collaboration with key stakeholders such as provincial departments, municipal partners, federal partners and industry;
- Collaboration with partners to maximize economic benefits associated with the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy.

Financial Summary

Departmental Expenses Summary
($ thousands)

Programs and Services	2015-2016 Estimate	2015-2016 Forecast	2016-2017 Estimate
Senior Management	666	861	999
Corporate Services	1,816	1,595	1,558
Halifax Convention Centre Amortization	1,128	0	5,066
Department and Crown Relations	7,665	8,148	10,068
Corporate Policy	0	328	657
Nova Scotia Jobs Fund	35,240	35,753	36,090
Business Relations and Innovation	14,183	13,060	27,031
Crown Corporations and Partnerships	76,752	77,930	109,982
Total - Departmental Expenses	137,450	137,675	191,451
Ordinary Recoveries	3,176	381	4,624
Funded Staff (# of FTEs)			
Department Funded Staff	28.0	21.9	28.0

Note:
For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2
For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1